

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES
March 6, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

Members of the Environmental Advisory Commission met on the above date at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Public Works Facility. Mr. Scott Anderson, Chairperson, called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests. The following attended the meeting:

1. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS:

Dr. David Ames
Dr. Michael Behm
Dr. Robert Chin

Mr. Scott Anderson
Mr. Owen Burney
Mr. Hugh Cox

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kinsey Holton, City of Greenville
Scott Godefroy, City of Greenville

2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Holton requested the River Park North UST/AST update be tabled to the April 3, 2014 meeting. Mr. Burney made a motion to proceed with the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cox and passed unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 6, 2014 MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Burney to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cox and passed unanimously.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mr. Holton informed the group of the Tar River Study public meeting that will be held on Saturday, March 15th at 10:00am at the Willis Building. A website has been set up that details more information regarding the project. Dr. Behm will be attending the meeting.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. New member David Ames

Mr. Anderson recognized Dr. Ames to EAC. Dr. Ames gave his background information and thanked everyone for their warm welcome.

B. City Sanitation Program Update

Mr. Holton welcomed Ms. Cheryl Tafoya, City of Greenville's Recycling Coordinator, and Mr. Delbert Bryant, Sanitation Manager. Mr. Bryant gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Sanitation Program. This presentation will be available with the March 6, 2014 minutes. The presentation detailed information regarding the history of the solid waste and recyclables for the City. Other topics provided in the presentation included:

- Waste Diversion Education
- Waste Diversion Incentives
- Yard Waste Diversion
- Multi-family Recycling
- Environmental Sustainability
- Current Recycling Initiatives

Dr. Behm asked what type of education is being provided to public schools regarding recycling. Ms. Tafoya stated all schools within the City limits were invited to participate in the “Feed the Bin” program; however, at this time only two were actively involved. Ms. Tafoya also acknowledged the monthly advertising with Greenville-Pitt Public Access Television (GPAT-23) that involved “going green” initiatives and the recycling program with Coca-Cola. Mr. Anderson asked if Coca-Cola was interested in continuing the recycling program with Greenville. Ms. Tafoya stated she felt the program would probably come back after the recycling cart roll-outs are complete.

Dr. Behm asked if there may be a possibility to partner with the recycling program to offer grant opportunities to public schools. Mr. Bryant stated most grants applications are processed by request of each school and there were no funds available from the City that could be utilized.

Mr. Anderson noted he had seen containers that were labeled “recycling” and “to the landfill” and asked if there was a possibility to have this verbiage to containers within the City. Ms. Tafoya responded there were currently no initiatives of this sort but would look into this option.

Mr. Anderson also asked what measures were being considered to prevent spillage from garbage trucks. Ms. Bryant responded and said the new trucks being purchased to prevent leakage to compact the contents in a more efficient manner.

Mr. Cox questioned if there was a method to measure waste collected from residents. Mr. Bryant responded there was currently no way to measure this as the City was on a bag system. Mr. Bryant further explained that bags were not counted. Ms. Tafoya also stated at some point in the future, a Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) tag and readers could identify waste collected from individual residents.

Mr. Bryant also presented members with an update from NCDENR that detailed recycling efforts across the state and identified Pitt County as ranked in the number two position. It was noted this was a drop from last year’s first place position.

C. City of Greenville Engineering Project Update

Mr. Godefroy was present to give an update on current Engineering projects. The first project discussed was the Parking Deck. Mr. Godefroy informed the group that 100% of the plans had been completed and it is anticipated the project will be presented to City Council in April for approval. The project is scheduled for completion in October. Mr. Godefroy further informed the group of the sustainable design efforts requested by EAC. Mr. Godefroy reported LED lighting with motion sensors are being considered in the design of the facility. Investors for solar panels have not been forthcoming and this option will be considered if any come forward. Porous pavement is also being considered to be bid as an added alternate item in the plaza area of the project.

Mr. Godefroy reported a design build has been obtained for expansion, and to refurbish the ballroom and reception area at the Greenville Convention Center. There is intent to obtain LEED Silver for the expansion project.

A public meeting was held last week to discuss the Dickinson Avenue Revitalization project. The meeting was held to inform the public of alternatives and visualizations on the intent of the project. Mr. Godefroy stated the preliminary engineering phase has been funded; however, the project has not been funded. Funding for the project is being sought from NC State monies.

Mr. Godefroy also reported the 10th Street Connector project should be in the construction phase in 2015. A bridge will be constructed over the CSX railroad and underground utility relocation will be the starting process; therefore, little construction work will be visible in the beginning phase of the project.

Mr. Holton reported the preliminary design alternatives were being sought on the Town Creek Culvert project. The preliminary structural analysis would show areas of the culvert that could be reutilized versus the complete removal and replacement of the entire culvert. The 10th Street Connector project will significantly impact the needed size of the culvert as more stormwater flow will be routed to the culvert and will exasperate the already undersized culvert. Mr. Anderson asked if there were any opportunities to daylight the culvert into the ECU parking lots. Mr. Holton stated a loan had been approved from the Cleanwater Management Trust Fund at 0% interest rate. The loan was approved based on the inclusion of green infrastructure which is anticipated to daylight the project from the section from 4th and 3rd as well as incorporating stormwater best management practices (BMPs) throughout the project.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. 2014 EAC Grant

Mr. Holton talked to Dr. Bean and no update has been provided on the current project with J.H. Rose. Mr. Holton presented the group with the updated fact sheet to reflect the timeline and noted the eligibility requirements as well. Mr. Holton will provide the pdf version of the application package and fact sheet to Dr. Behm to distribute through Karen Quick and those provided with the City of Greenville's Public School list. Mr. Holton also noted future funding sources need to be considered and would be in contact with Kevin Mulligan to ascertain if more information was available.

Mr. Holton also questioned if EAC would be interested in considering opening up the application process to include HOAs and environmental groups within the City.

B. 2014 Goals Implementation

Mr. Anderson noted the goals with notes from February 6th EAC meeting. Mr. Anderson asked for everyone to review the goals. Mr. Holton also presented a list of other City commissions with members. Mr. Anderson asked EAC members to review the lists and identify individuals they may know and foster relationships on common goals between commissions.

Mr. Holton also noted he would contact Greenville Utilities to speak to EAC with their efforts on water conservation at the April 2014 meeting.

Green Fest was discussed as to whether EAC would like to attend this year. This topic was added to April 2014 agenda.

Dr. Ames asked about the single use plastic bags and if this should be added to the list of goals. Mr. Cox responded EAC had identified this as a topic for reduction of waste and the plastics brochure had derived from that discussion. Dr. Ames asked if the City could study the options to eliminate use of single use plastic bags. Mr. Holton responded that he would check into this possibility by speaking with the Public Works Director.

C. GCPP Discussion

Mr. Cox began by stating the GCPP had issues with meeting a quorum and there were no new prospects for members. Mr. Cox further also stated that he felt GCPP had accomplished their initial goal. With these things in mind, along with the City providing development of the sustainability plan initiative, Mr. Cox explained that he felt GCPP may need to dissolve at this time. However, he did ask if the City could forward EAC correspondence to former GCPP members. Mr. Holton stated he believed the correspondence should be between EAC members to further discussion on EAC topics. Dr. Behm noted that EAC meeting agendas and minutes were added to the City's website for public information. Mr. Cox will provide a list of individuals to Mr. Anderson for forwarding EAC information.

D. River Park North UST/AST Update

This topic was tabled to the April 3, 2014 meeting.

8. OTHER– FYI

A. Recycling Report

Mr. Holton noted that according to the information provided by Mr. Bryant during the sanitation program presentation, Pitt County had dropped from number 1 to number 2 in the state for total public recycling per capita. Dr. Behm questioned the 2012 statistics regarding the increase in recycling. Dr. Ames asked if Catawba County could be contacted to investigate their efforts in recycling.

9. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS – The following items are proposed for the April 3, 2014 meeting:

- A. GUC Water Conservation Program Overview**
- B. 2014 EAC Grant**
- C. 2014 EAC Goal Implementation**
- D. City Council Chambers Meeting Discussion**
- E. Green Fest Discussion**
- F. River Park North UST/AST Update**
- G. Tar River Study Update**
- H. Public Survey**

10. Adjournment –There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Burney made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cox and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.